

Engaging the Greater Lafayette Community in a Journey Through the Earth Sciences: Purdue's EAPS Earth Science Passport Day Event

The 3rd annual Earth Science Passport Day was held at Imagination Station on November 10th, 2018. Passport Day is the Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS) Department's largest outreach event. Geared towards ages 6-12, participants engaged in twelve hands-on learning activities that covered a wide range of Earth and planetary science topics including earthquakes, tornadoes, Mars rovers, and Moon phases. Participants were given their own "science passport" to collect stamps from each station. Upon completing 10 of the 12 activities, participants could claim their prize which included a rock, mineral, or fossil—that each participant identified him/herself—and a "Junior EAPS Scientist" certificate. Financial support through the Office of Engagement's Service Learning Grant provided the means to purchase educational supplies, passport printouts, prizes, advertising flyers, and a brand new Teaching Tornado Model. Since its inception in 2016, the Earth Science Passport Day event has experienced an increase in attendance, reflecting more extensive advertising efforts. Last semester's event reached record breaking numbers, engaging 50+ EAPS student volunteers with 300+ children, teens, and adults from the greater Lafayette community. We intend to further increase attendance in the coming years. In addition to expanding EAPS' outreach footprint in community, we will make further improvements to the event by redesigning information boards, creating new hands-on learning activities, and seeking sponsorship to cover the cost of admission at Imagination Station, making Earth Science Passport Day free to the public.